

For Assistant to the Director, E.C.W.,
From Bureau of Biological Survey,
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C. C. C. WORK FOR THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Men in twenty-eight Civilian Conservation Corps Camps are either now working on wildlife refuges administered by the Bureau of Biological Survey or are preparing to move to them. In April, 1935, only four C. C. C. camps had been assigned to the Survey. With an average enrollment of 190 in each camp, the number of C. C. C. men who are helping to restore a natural habitat to wildlife in this country comes to more than 5,300.

One reason for the rapid expansion of C. C. C. work on wildlife refuges is the fact that whereas in June, 1934, a total of only 700,000 acres was controlled for the uses of wildlife, since then the acreage has been enlarged by approximately 1,400,000, an increase of 200 percent.

On wildlife refuges the usual C. C. C. workday is 7 hours, five days a week. Refuges are large, seldom less than 30,000 acres, with land and water boundaries sometimes stretching scores of miles. They lie along the four principal flyways of American wildfowl from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. Each has been chosen because the animals themselves have selected the locality as a natural refuge. The problem is to repair damage to the wildlife habitat that is the result of causes ranging from overshooting to soil erosion and the invasion of industry and agriculture.

C. C. C. boys work under squad leaders who follow the indications on blue prints. First, Biological Survey experts pass on the value of any locality from the point of view of wildlife. U. S. Army engineers or members of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering are then called in, if they are needed, to solve drainage problems and problems of communication.